



UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS FOR ACADEMIC ORDER, Inc.

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FOR RELEASE

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UPAO SEES THREAT TO FREE SPEECH IN NEW CAMPUS DISORDERS

"Student disruption of U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick talk at the University of California at Berkeley, and other incidents on campuses in the country, may be signalling a return to the disruptions of the Vietnam War years," observed Dr. C.

Lowell Harriss, President of the University Professors for Academic Order.

Dr. Harriss continued: "UPAO was founded in 1970 to combat attacks on academic freedom that were widespread then. At that time, militant students were demanding the right of anti-Vietnam War speakers to be heard on campus and carried on violent anti-war demonstrations.

"UPAO is all for hearing all points of view on campus. But, militant disruptive students were wrong then in overrunning campuses, and they are wrong now in preventing so-called conservative views from being expressed.

"What is dismaying is not only the violent student behavior at Berkeley, but the failure to date of university authorities to take appropriate precautions to protect the speaker's right to be heard and subsequent failure to take disciplinary action against the disrupters.

"We note that campus police at Berkeley were prepared to identify some of the student disrupters, but the chancellor has not up to this time taken action against the individuals."

Dr. Harriss concluded: "Proposed government actions in Central America, notably in El Salvador, are admittedly controversial. But, to the extent that university authorities fail to protect speakers, and assure their freedom of speech, we have sacrificed academic freedom to the loud-mouthed but not necessarily brainiest students."

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